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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMÂTION NO.
09/963,674	09/27/2001	Kenji Ohmori	011020	8984
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ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP			EXAMINER	
1725 K STREE' SUITE 1000	T, NW	PAULRAJ, CHRISTOPHER		
WASHINGTON	N, DC 20006			
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			1773	6
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. OphRos. 374 OPHRONE ET AL. Examiner		· <u> </u>	4C
### Deficie Action Summary Examiner	•	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Christopher G. Paulraj 1773 - The MALLING DATE of this communication appears on the c_ver sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for reply specified shows is less than thiny (30) days, and provide the statistic manufacture of the period for reply specified along case of his communication. If the period for reply specified shows is less than thiny (30) days, and provide the period of the period of the communication of the period of the period of the communication of the period of the period of the period of the period of the communication of the period of the period of the communication of the period		09/963,674	OHMORI ET AL.
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Exclusions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CPR in 15(8). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after 50x (6) MCNTIS from the mailing date of this communication. False in CN (6) MCNTIS from the mailing date of this communication. False is reply within the set of extended period for reply will, by statutory mixed will apply and will explicit (8) (8) MCNTIS from the mailing date of this communication. False is reply within the set of extended period for reply will, by statuto, cause the application to become ARANDONED (53 U.S. C.§ 133). Any rophy received by the Office the Teah Prean mornish after the melling date of this communication, even if timely fried, may reduce any. Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on *06 February 2003*. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) *1-10.13 and 14* is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are allowed. 5) Claim(s) *1-10.13 and 14* is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) * is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) * is/are allowed. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are subjected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on		ears on the c ver sheet with the c	orrespondence address
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	2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) Notice of Informal F	

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on February 6, 2003 has been entered. Claims 1-10 and 13-14 are pending. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims 1-10, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi et al. (JP 2000-058312) in view of Ishihara et al. (JP 11-251131) and Ohashi et al. (EP 0 430 198 A2).

Shinichi et al. discloses a composition for a resin bonded magnet constituted of an alloy powder such as Nd-Fe-B (page 2, ¶ 13) coated on its surface with a phosphate film comprising two or more phosphates including iron phosphate (page 2, ¶ 14). A zinc film can also be coated as a processing agent onto the magnetic powder (page 2, ¶ 14). Shinichi et al. does not specifically disclose the thickness of the phosphate film. However, Ishihara et al. discloses a similar magnetic powder that can be coated with a phosphate film having a thickness of 10-100 nm (abstract). One skilled in the art would have found it obvious to adjust the thickness of the phosphate layer to between 10-100 nm. One skilled in the art would also have found it obvious to adjust Fe/rare earth element ratio to within the claimed ranges. The motivation for doing so would have been to optimize the magnetic properties of the powder. Shinichi et al. does not specifically disclose that the apparent

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density of the compacted magnetic powder should be 85% or more. However, Ohashi et al. discloses a similar magnet which comprises a crushed magnetic powder having an apparent density of at least 95% of the intrinsic density (abstract). One skilled in the art would have found it obvious to adjust the apparent density of the magnet of Shinichi et al. to greater than 95%. The motivation for doing so would have been to optimize the weight and magnetic properties.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher G. Paulraj whose telephone number is (703) 308-1036. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau can be reached on (703) 308-2367. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0661.

cgp

April 8, 2003

Paul Thibodeau
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700

and Flublen